

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 12616 010029Z

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 SIL-01 EB-11 SS-20 NSC-10

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 COME-00 LAB-06 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 L-03 IO-14 DRC-01 /145 W

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P 311605Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4974

INFO USINT ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TUNIS PRIORITY

USINT BAGHDAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 12616

DEPT PASS CAIRO PRIORITY

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT ELAB ETRN ETRD XF

SUBJ: ARAB LABOR BOYCOTT OF US SHIPPING AND AIR TRANSPORT

REF: A BEIRUT 12560; B. TRIPOLI 1379

1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT INTERNATIONAL CONFEDERATION OF ARAB
TRADE UNIONS (ICATU) HAS CALLED EXTRAORDINARY MEETING NOV 1 AT
TRIPOLI, LIBYA RE POSSIBLE LABOR BOYCOTT OF US/GERMAN/DUTCH
INTERESTS IN ARAB COUNTRIES.

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2. CONFEDERATION OF LEBANESE LABOR (CLL) SOURCES CREDIT SYRIAN LABOR FEDERATION--AND HENCE DAMASCUS REGIME--WITH INITIATIVE FOR SESSION AND ASSOCIATE IT WITH SEPARATE SYRIAN EFFORT LAST WEEK TO TALK LEBANESE LABOR LEADERS INTO UNILATERAL BOYCOTT OF US/ DUTCH/GERMAN SHIPPING AND AIR TRANSPORT IN LEBANON (BEIRUT 12560). SOURCES FORESEE TWO TENDENCIES EMERGING AT ICATU MEETING: SYRIANS, SUPPORTED BY IRAQI, KUWAITI, PALESTINIAN AND SOUTH YEMENI REPS, WOULD TAKE HARD-LINE APPROACH, PUSHING FOR SPECIFIC BOYCOTT MEASURES IN OIL, TRANSPORT AND OTHER ECONOMIC SECTORS AS PART OF CONTINUING WAR EFFORT, ON OTHER SIDE, EGYPTIANS, WITH NORTH AFRICAN AND LEBANESE BACKING, WOULD ADVOCATE GO-SLOW TACK. IN LEBANESE VIEW, OUTCOME WOULD DEPEND ON EGYPTIANS AND WHETHER THEY HOLD FAST OR SHIFT GROUND.

3. CLL LEADERSHIP NEITHER WANTS NOR EXPECTS LOCAL BOYCOTT ACTIONS BUT HAS TAKEN PUBLIC POSITION THAT IT WOULD APPLY ANY UNANIMOUS DECISION REACHED BY ICATU. IN PRIVATE, LEADERS SHARE BELIEF IT WON'T COME TO THAT.

4. COMMENT: TIMING OF ICATU MEETING AND ITS LOCATION AT TRIPOLI, WHERE SOME BOYCOTTING IS ALREADY UNDERWAY (TRIPOLI 1379), RAISE

DISTINCT POSSIBILITY THAT THERE IS LIKELY BE SOME LABOR BOYCOTT SPILLOVER IN OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES REGARDLESS OF ULTIMATE CONFERENCE OUTCOME. CRUCIAL QUESTION WILL BE EXTENT TO WHICH INDIVIDUAL ARAB GOVTS MAY BE DRAWN INTO SUCH BOYCOTT EFFORTS IN SPIKE OF TANGIBLE NATIONAL INTERESTS.

BUFFUM

NOTE BY OCT: NOT PASSED CAIRO.

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